AmeriCorps Members: Bridging the Digital Divide

AmeriCorps members are helping bridge the digital divide and to ensure the promise of technology for many Americans. Working in schools, community centers, and YMCAs, AmeriCorps members are providing the hands-on instruction, expertise, and guidance needed to help children succeed and thrive in the digital age.

With support from AOL, IBM, Sun Microsystems, and other corporate and nonprofit partners, hundreds of AmeriCorps members are working in technology initiatives this year. In communities across the country, AmeriCorps members are wiring schools to the Internet, training teachers on how to use technology in the classroom, and providing one-on-one instruction to children and adult learners.

A sample of national and local AmeriCorps initiatives:

PowerUP.

Together with America s Promise, AOL, the YMCA, The Boys and Girls Clubs, and others, AmeriCorps*VISTA is assigning up to 400 members to work in schools and community technology centers across the country. AOL, Gateway, Sun Microsystems, and other corporate partners have pledged more than $10 million to this effort.

Project FIRST.

More than 100 AmeriCorps members are serving this year with Project FIRST a partnership between IBM and the Public Education Network. AmeriCorps members refurbish and install computers and wire schools to the Internet, help train teachers to use technology in the classroom, and provide hands-on instruction to students. AmeriCorps members are now serving with Project FIRST in Atlanta, Ga.; New York City; Oakland, Calif.; and Washington, D.C.

Teaming for TECHnology.

With support from IBM and the United Way of America, 65 AmeriCorps*VISTA members are helping nonprofits in disadvantaged communities develop and implement technology-literacy programs for local residents. Current sites include Los Angeles, Calif.; San Francisco, Calif.; Chicago, Ill.; Detroit, Mich.; Tampa, Fla.; Boston, Mass.; Rochester, Minn.; Broome County, N.Y.; Burlington, Vt.; and Austin; Texas.

NextDay.

AmeriCorps*VISTA members are wiring schools in sixteen Empowerment Zones to the Internet and assisting in integrating technology into the curriculum. The first sites are in Rosedale, Miss.; Mercedes, Texas; Oakland, Calif.; New York, N.Y.; Detroit, Mich.; Los Angeles, Calif.; and Washington, D.C.

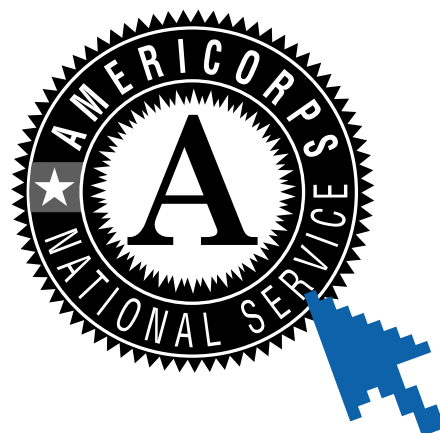### AmeriCorps*National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC).

Working in schools and Boys and Girls Clubs across the country, AmeriCorps*NCCC members are installing computer labs, teaching computer skills to students and adults, and running power hours in which students learn to do their homework on the computer. Recent AmeriCorps*NCCC project sites have included Aberdeen, Md.; Manchester, N.H.; Detroit, Mich.; Denver Colo.; San Diego, Calif.; Albany, N.Y.; and Greenville, S.C.

Ohio Community Computing Center Networks.

Across Ohio, AmeriCorps*VISTA members are turning storefronts, church basements, schools, and libraries in low-income neighborhoods into technology centers for local residents.

> "AmeriCorps is putting the people power in place so that the digital divide can be closed, not just through technology, but through people."
>
> Steve Case, Chairman
> America On Line (AOL)
> November 8, 1999

Lyndon State College, Vermont. AmeriCorps members provide computer and literacy training to youth and adults throughout the Northeast Kingdom.

Jobs for Maine's Graduates. AmeriCorps members are bringing together schools, adult education programs, and libraries to improve computer education programs for students and adults.

Lower Mississippi Delta Service Corps. AmeriCorps members serving throughout Rosedale and Lambert, Miss., teach basic computer literacy skills to students and their parents in after-school programs.

City Year. AmeriCorps members serving with City Year in Seattle, Wash.; Cleveland, Ohio; and San Antonio, Texas, are also helping bridge the digital divide. In Cleveland, AmeriCorps members operate an out-of-school computer curriculum for K-5 students and assist teachers in using computer technology. In San Antonio, AmeriCorps members offer Internet instruction for adults and children. In Seattle, they are developing a technology curriculum for children throughout King County.

Computers for Louisiana's Kids. AmeriCorps members in New Orleans and Baton Rouge teach high school students how to refurbish computers. Members also serve as on-site technology experts in the schools.

Butler County Board of Education. In Greenville, Ala., AmeriCorps members are teaching computer skills and providing after-school tutoring and mentoring to elementary students in three rural schools.

For more information on how AmeriCorps is helping bridge the digital divide, call Sandy Scott at (202) 606-5000, x255, or visit *www.americorps.org*.

For information about serving as an AmeriCorps member, visit *www.americorps.org* or call 1-800-942-2677.